

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 207  
By Cross

A RESOLUTION relative to health and safety concerns about the storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous, radioactive and mixed wastes at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation.

WHEREAS, the House Conservation and Environment Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee have conducted extensive public hearings on the transportation, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous, radioactive and mixed wastes at the United States Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the TSCA Incinerator located at the K-25 Facility has raised significant concerns about the health and safety of workers on the Oak Ridge Reservation, as well as the impact on surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, substantial and credible testimony was presented that some workers in the vicinity of the incinerator are experiencing debilitating health problems; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to seek further investigation into the cause of such health problems; and

WHEREAS, testimony has also been received on the type of monitoring which has been employed to determine the completeness of the incineration of hazardous, radioactive and mixed waste and the environmental release of materials which have resulted from operation of the incinerator; and

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WHEREAS, it is also appropriate to insist that the best and most comprehensive methods of monitoring be required to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for this body to adopt interim recommendations based on the information received and to continue to monitor the issues raised to determine if further action is warranted; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the United States Department of Energy is requested to establish and fund a task force to continue the investigation of health and safety issues concerning the TSCA Incinerator located at the K-25 Facility on the Oak Ridge Reservation and that such task force include members of the House Conservation and Environment Committee, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and other appropriate state officials, local officials and citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Health is requested to review the response of Lockheed-Martin and the United States Department of Energy to the ill workers and former workers and determine if such response is adequate and effective. The Department of Health is further requested to encourage the examination and testing of workers and former workers to determine the cause of the illnesses suffered by such workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation is requested to require that monitors be utilized at the TSCA Incinerator to determine the type and quantity of material being released into the environment as a result of operation of the incinerator. It is further requested that if monitors are not available to continuously monitor releases from the incinerator that grab samples be utilized to monitor such releases. It is also requested that monitoring be conducted at the limits of the K-25 Facility to determine the type and quantity of material being released into the environment as a result of operation of the

incinerator. It is requested that such monitoring be required as a condition of renewal of permits for such facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Transportation are requested to assist the House Conservation and Environment Committee in further studying the issue of transportation of radioactive and mixed wastes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, the Director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, the Commissioner of Transportation, the United States Department of Energy, the Martin-Lockheed Corporation and the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.